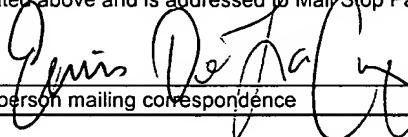


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Antonios G. Mikos et al. Art Unit: 1651
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: February 10, 2004 Customer No.: 21559
Title: POROUS BIODEGRADABLE POLYMERIC MATERIALS FOR
CELL TRANSPLANTATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application submitted with this amendment, kindly amend the application as follows.

In the Claims.

Kindly cancel pending claims 1-10, and replace them with the following new claims.

11. A polymeric matrix formed of a biodegradable, biocompatible, synthetic, amorphous polymer or semi-crystalline polymer with a degree of crystallinity in the range of from 0 to 24.5% having a porosity of between 45 to 93% and a pore size range of greater than zero to 500 microns that is suitable for attachment and

proliferation of dissociated cells.

12. The matrix of claim 1, further comprising cells selected from the group consisting of: hepatocytes, pancreatic islet cells, fibroblasts, chondrocytes, osteoblasts, exocrine cells, cells of intestinal origin, bile duct cells, parathyroid cells, thyroid cells, cells of the adrenal-hypothalamic-pituitary axis, heart muscle cells, kidney epithelial cells, kidney tubular cells, kidney basement membrane cells, nerve cells, blood vessel cells, cells forming bone and cartilage, smooth muscle cells, and skeletal muscle cells.

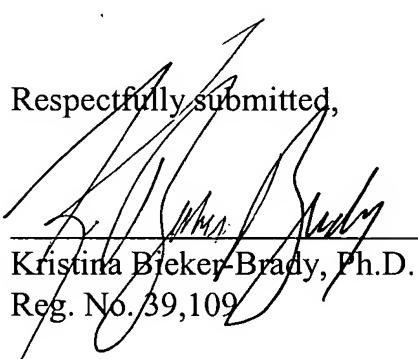
13. The matrix of claim 1, further comprising a material enhancing cell attachment to the polymer, wherein said material overlays the polymer.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment. If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Date:

February 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


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